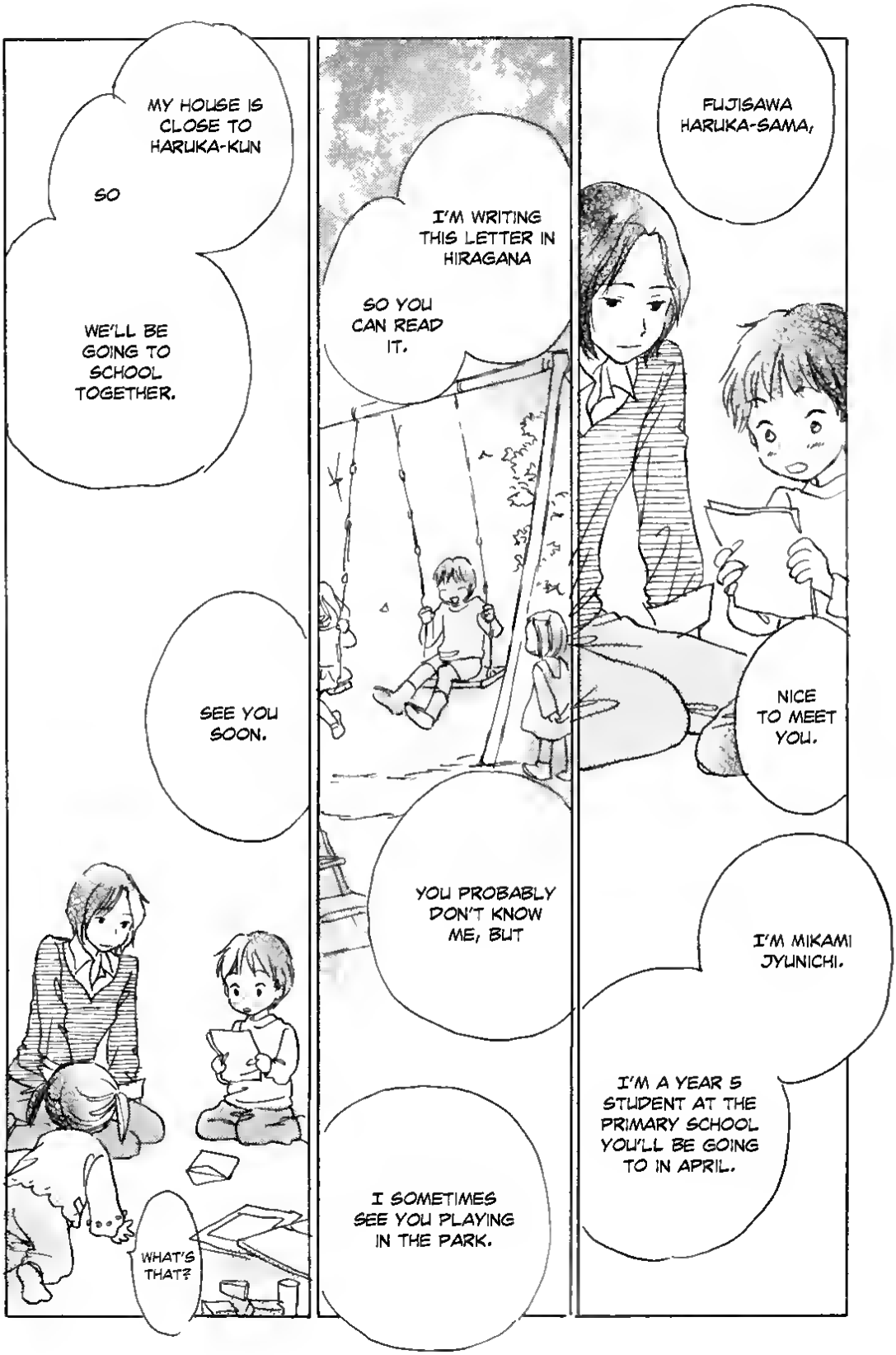
# My First Letter

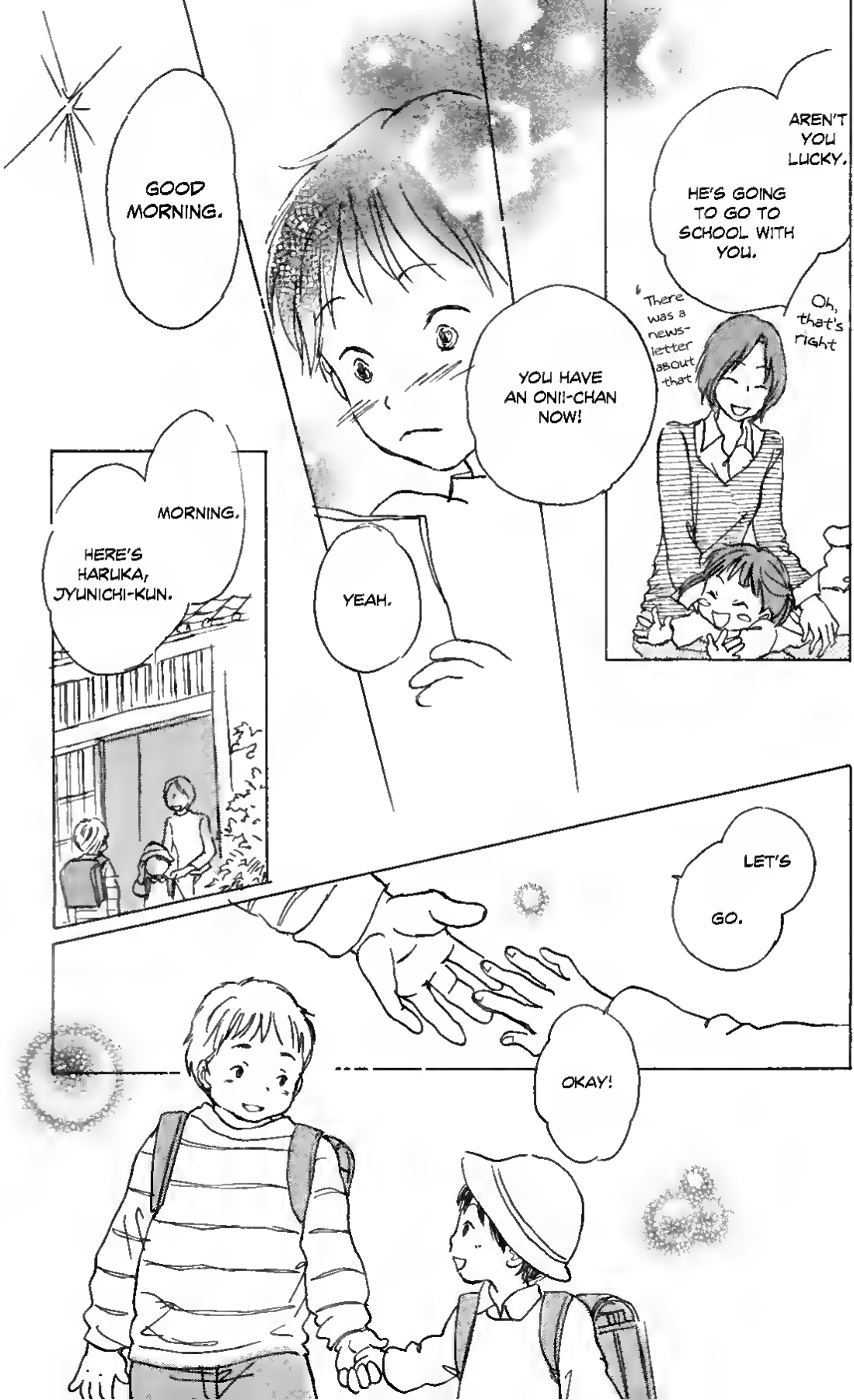
I MADE A BIT TOO MUCH,
SO IF YOU'D LIKE, PLEASE TAKE SOME.
THANK YOU
FOR ALWAYS HELPING OUT.
nikujaga
AND THIS IS
FOR SAYA-CHAN.
SORRY IT'S SAHO'S HAND-ME-DOWNS...

HARADA-SAN FROM NEXT DOOR WANTED TO GIVE THIS TO YOU.
IT'S PRINCESS SHOES!
DO YOU LIKE IT?
YUP!
I BOUGHT THIS FOR THE ENTRANCE CEREMONY BUT SAHO REFUSED TO WEAR IT.
And after that, the shoes didn't fit her anymore.
oh, that
YOU KNOW THE FAIRY TALE, "THE RED SHOES"? SHE GOT SCARED OF THAT.
I guess we won't talk about Hans Anderson for a while.
AH,
THERE'S A LETTER INSIDE.
rustle
DEAR SAYA-CHAN,
I'M SORRY IT'S A HAND-ME-DOWN, BUT I HOPE YOU CAN MAKE GOOD USE OF IT.
FROM HARADA SAHO.

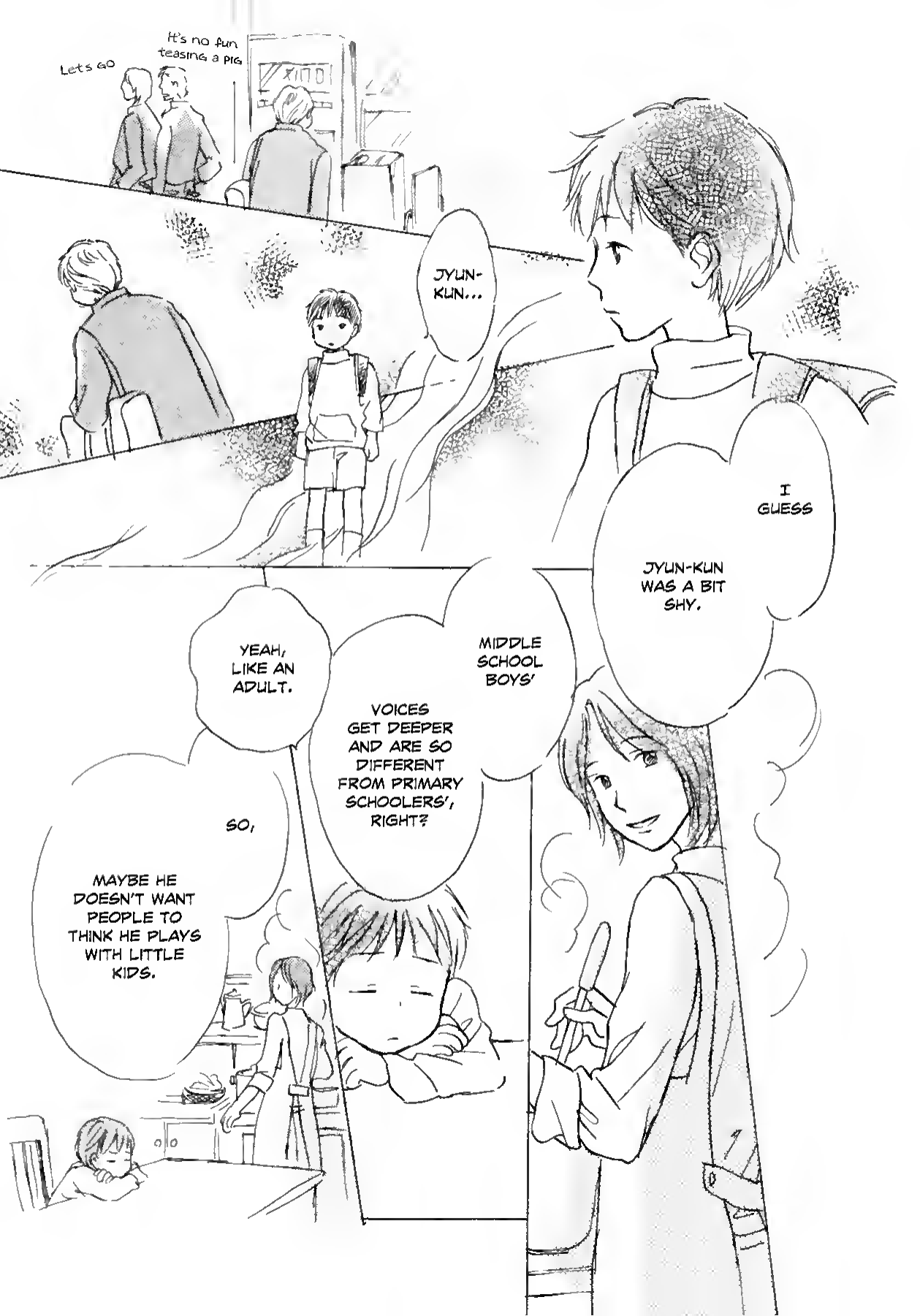
trot
trot
trot
trot
trot
trot
trot
trot
GRIIIN
THE SHOES?
I'M GOING TO PUT IT IN MY TREASURE BOX.
FIRST LETTER...
SAHO-CHAN'S LETTER!
IT'S THE FIRST LETTER I'VE GOTTEN.

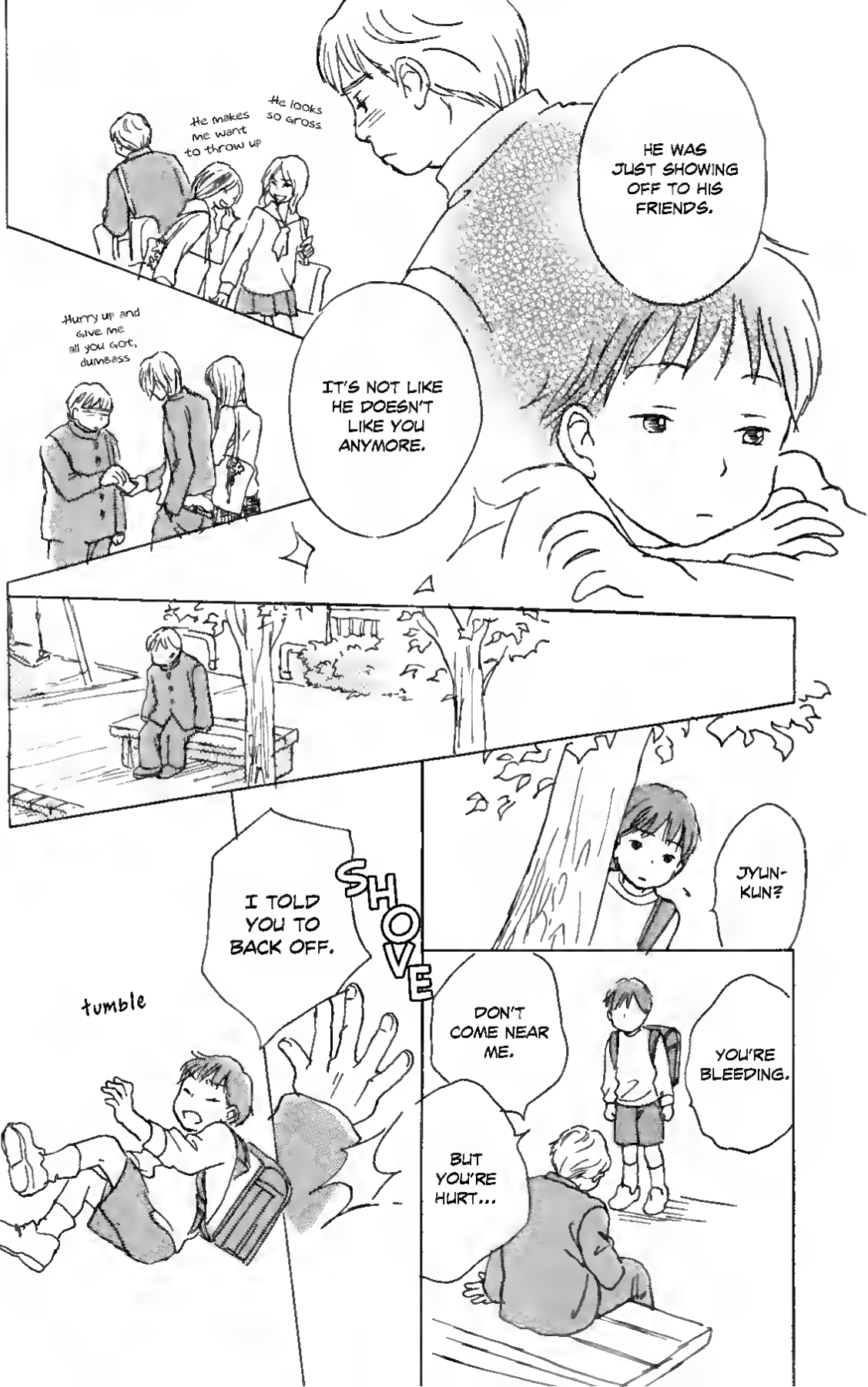
Fuyusaki Haruka-sama
THERE'S A LETTER FOR YOU.
OH.
HMMM.
FOR ME?
LOOK AT THE ADDRESSED NAME.
FU
JI
SAWA
HA
RU
KA
SAMA
WOW.
CAN I OPEN IT? CAN I?
OF COURSE.
IT'S YOUR LETTER, AFTER ALL.
My letter


FUJISAWA HARUKA-SAMA,
I'M MIKAMI JYUNICHI.
I'M A YEAR 5 STUDENT AT THE PRIMARY SCHOOL YOU'LL BE GOING TO IN APRIL.
NICE TO MEET YOU.
I'M WRITING THIS LETTER IN HIRAGANA
SO YOU CAN READ IT.
YOU PROBABLY DON'T KNOW ME, BUT
I SOMETIMES SEE YOU PLAYING IN THE PARK.
MY HOUSE IS CLOSE TO HARUKA-KUN
SO
WE'LL BE GOING TO SCHOOL TOGETHER.
SEE YOU SOON.
WHAT'S THAT?


GOOD MORNING.
YOU HAVE AN ONII-CHAN NOW!
YEAH.
AREN'T YOU LUCKY.
HE'S GOING TO GO TO SCHOOL WITH YOU.
Oh, that's right
There was a news-letter about that
MORNING.
HERE'S HARUKA, JYUNICHI-KUN.
LET'S GO.
OKAY!

IT'S A BIT LONELY NOW THAT JYUNICHI-KUN'S GONE TO MIDDLE SCHOOL.
YEAH.
Morning.
Morning, Kotomi-chan
JYUN-KUN!
HE SAID JYUN-KUN, MIKAMI~
DOES HE EVEN HAVE A JYUN-KUN FACE!
JYUN-KUN.


Lets go
It's no fun teasing a pig
JYUN-KUN...
I GUESS JYUN-KUN WAS A BIT SHY.
MIDDLE SCHOOL BOYS' VOICES GET DEEPER AND ARE SO DIFFERENT FROM PRIMARY SCHOOLERS', RIGHT?
YEAH, LIKE AN ADULT.
SO, MAYBE HE DOESN'T WANT PEOPLE TO THINK HE PLAYS WITH LITTLE KIDS.


He looks so gross.
He makes me want to throw up
HE WAS JUST SHOWING OFF TO HIS FRIENDS.
Hurry up and give me all you got, dumbass
IT'S NOT LIKE HE DOESN'T LIKE YOU ANYMORE.
JYUN-KUN?
I TOLD YOU TO BACK OFF.
SHOVE
tumble
DON'T COME NEAR ME.
YOU'RE BLEEDING.
BUT YOU'RE HURT...

...EXCUSE ME.
drip
drip
drip

I'M MIKAMI, MIKAMI JYUNICHI.
HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN ME, HARUKA-KUN?
WHAT?
YES?
I HEARD FROM MY PARENTS YOUR MOTHER PASSED AWAY,
I'M GOING TO A PRIVATE MIDDLE SCHOOL FROM MY RELATIVE'S HOUSE.
BUT I COULDN'T GET UP THE COURAGE TO COME...
...I'M SORRY.
SORRY, YOU'VE GOT THE...

I SHOULD HAVE COME EARLIER, BUT...
UM,
WOULD IT BE OKAY IF I DID SHOUKOU NOW?
YOU SHOULD ASK-
ONII-CHAN?
...
Stranger!!

...I
RESPECT YOU,
HARUKA.
...WHA
WHY? WHY IS HE STILL MISUNDER-STANDING?
ACTUALLY, WHAT DOES HE MEAN BY RESPECT?
YOU'RE REALLY COOL.
YOU HAVE GUTS!

I COULD NEVER DO SUCH A THING, BUT-
What do you mean by "such a thing"?
THE SENSE OF NOT FITTING IN AND NO ONE UNDERSTANDING
AND FEELING ALONE.
I REALLY UNDERSTAND
...THEN.
THANK YOU FOR ALWAYS
TAKING HARUKA
DESPITE THAT
YOU WERE SMALLER AND WEAKER THAN ME,
I
TOOK IT OUT ON YOU.
I...
I COULDN'T BELIEVE WHAT I HAD DONE.
I COULDN'T FORGET
YOUR EYES BACK THEN.

WH-
WHAT SHOULD I DO.
NOW THERE'S NO WAY I CAN SAY IT.
UM...
I'M REALLY SORRY ABOUT BEFORE.
IT'S A BIT LATE, BUT...
I'M ON YOUR SIDE.
I'LL COME AGAIN.
I DON'T THINK I CAN FACE YOUR MOM YET.
I THINK I'LL GO HOME NOW.
BYE.
UM, I'M NOT-
It stopped raining already.
...
OH, HARUKA.

ONII-CHAN WENT OUT SHOPPING.
OH, HE'S BACK.
I'M HOME.
HI, SAYA-CHAN.
WHERE'S FUJISAWA-KUN?
I THOUGHT YOU WERE ONII-CHAN.
Did that big man go?
WHAT'S THAT? CANDY?
Ykya
IT'S INCENSE.
SO JYUN-KUN CAME.
OH, HARADA-SAN.
A GUEST CAME TO YOUR HOUSE JUST NOW.
A GUEST?
thump
YEAH, HE LOOKED LIKE HE WAS IN MIDDLE SCHOOL AND WAS A BIT BIG BONED.
HE SAID THAT HE'LL COME AGAIN AND GAVE ME THIS.
The other thing is a circular notice.
Glasses?

SAHO-CHAN, COME IN, COME IN.
I WANT TO SHOW YOU SOMETHING.
THANK YOU FOR THE PRINCESS SHOES THE OTHER DAY.
Princess.
I'm glad it wasn't pink!
YOU LIKED THEM?
YUP!!
MY TREASURE BOX.
THIS IS
THAT'S A CUTE BOX.
Was it a cookie tin?
YOU'RE SHOWING ME?
YUP.
I GOT IT FROM RIKAKO-CHAN.

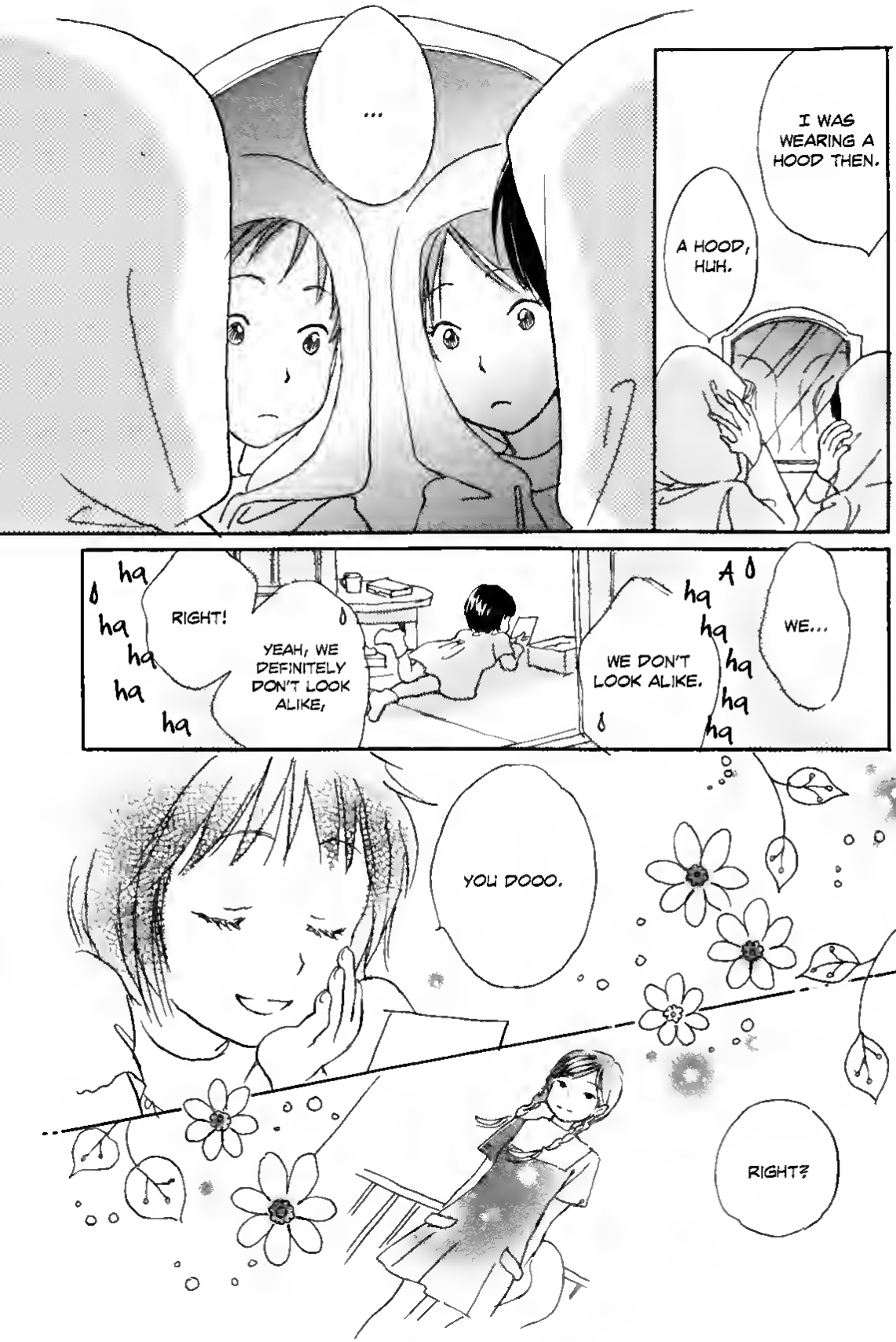
A SHELL FROM LAST YEAR WHEN WE WENT TO THE BEACH,
STICKERS THAT SMELL LIKE FLOWERS,
A RIBBON FROM A CHRISTMAS PRESENT.
WHAT'S THIS PICTURE?
OKAA-SAN.
IT'S A PICTURE FROM WHEN OKAA-SAN WAS YOUNGER.
stare
SHE LOOKS LIKE FUJISAWA-KUN.
...

AND
SAHO-CHAN'S LETTER.
WHAT? MINE?
I FEEL KIND OF BAD ABOUT YOU PUTTING IT IN THE SAME BOX AS SOMETHING AS IMPORTANT
AS YOUR MOTHER'S PICTURE...
IT'S THE FIRST LETTER I'VE EVER GOT!
I THINK...
THAT LETTERS ARE MORE APPRECIATED BY THE PERSON WHO RECEIVES IT
THAN THE SENDER THINKS IT WILL BE.

fufu
YOU KNOW, I WROTE A REPLY.
REALLY? THANKS.
READ IT, READ IT!
WHAT I WROTE.
BUT I'M GLAD TO KNOW THAT SOMEONE BECAME HAPPY READING
REALLY? IT'S A BIT EMBARRASSING.
FROM SAYA.
I'LL TREASURE IT.
THANK YOU FOR THE BEAUTIFUL SHOES. IT MADE ME REALLY HAPPY.
DING
DONG
BUT LETTERS ARE GOOD TOO.
I'VE BEEN THINKING THAT I REALLY WANTED A CELL PHONE,
THIS MAKES ME HAPPY...

DING
DONG
I just came to deliver the circular notice.
I HAVE TO GO HOME.
SEE YOU, SAYA-CHAN.
OH YEAH, FUJISAWA-KUN,
THAT MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT,
HE WAS APOLOGIZING TO YOU.
HE SAID, "I'M SORRY ABOUT THAT TIME."
AND HE ALSO SAID THAT YOU HAVE GUTS AND HE RESPECTS YOU.
REALLY?

HE DIDN'T OPEN UP TO ME
HE REALLY OPENED UP TO YOU QUICKLY.
AND THAT HE'S ON YOUR SIDE.
...
WHAT~!!
HE THOUGHT I WAS YOU, FUJISAWA-KUN.
What a complicated misunderstanding.
THAT'S WHY
YEAH
OHH
WHY? WITH THAT LOOK? WHY?!
AND YOU'RE EVEN WEARING A SKIRT!
They're Culottes
RIGHT?
WHY DID HE THINK I'M A BOY.
Sadly
NO.
I've been told that at school too
ACTUALLY, DO WE REALLY LOOK THAT ALIKE?
BESIDES YOU'RE A BOY AND I'M A GIRL.
Maybe we looked the same before.


...
I WAS WEARING A HOOD THEN.
A HOOD, HUH.
ha ha ha ha ha
RIGHT!
YEAH, WE DEFINITELY DON'T LOOK ALIKE,
WE DON'T LOOK ALIKE.
ha ha ha ha ha
WE...
YOU DOOO.
RIGHT?

# Translation Notes

Hiya~
Here are some words which don't have an English equivalent.

Page 126: Nikujaga 肉じゃが (にくじゃが) is a Japanese dish of meat, potatoes and onion stewed in sweetened soy sauce, sometimes with ito konnyaku and vegetables, such as carrots.

Page 137: Shoukou 焼香 (しょうこう) is a Bhuddist ritual where incense is burned as a means of praying to Bhudda and the deceased.

Page 141: Gobutsuzen 御仏前 (ごぶつぜん) is a offering made to Buddha or placed on a mortuary tablet.